

# PEACE, JUSTICE, AND CONFLICT STUDIES AND INDIANA LIBRARIES

by J. Douglas Archer



## INTRODUCTION

Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies (hereafter referred to simply as peace studies) is one of the younger academic disciplines having its origins in the aftermath of World War II. And, believe it or not, it has many of its roots right here in Indiana. In 1948 Manchester College pioneered the first undergraduate peace studies program in America followed closely by Goshen and Earlham Colleges (Peace Studies, n.d.). These three programs now cooperate in the Lily-funded Plowshares project. (Details of this innovative initiative are available at its website <http://www.plowsharesproject.org/>.) Indiana is such a magnet for peace studies as a discipline and profession that both the Peace and Justice Studies Association and the Historic Peace Church conferences were held in Goshen and Indianapolis respectively in 2005.

This article, however, is not about the Plowshares project per se. It is about serving the research needs of scholars and practitioners of peace, justice, and conflict studies as a discipline and profession. That this might be a concern of many librarians, academic and public, becomes clear when one realizes that peace studies is not confined to the Plowshares colleges of the historic peace churches. The University of Notre Dame has a master's program in international peace studies. The Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary also grants an MA while Anderson, Ball State, Bethany Theological Seminary, DePauw, Earlham School of Religion, Indiana State, Indiana University, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, Purdue, and Trinity all offer peace studies programs at one level or another (COPRED, 2000, p. 152-153).

While many graduates of these programs have spread throughout the world in their efforts to build peace, bring justice, and transform conflict, many others have remained at home performing this work from within their local Indiana communities. Therefore, whether one is a librarian at an institution with a peace studies program or at another Indiana college or a public library in any Indiana community large or small, one may quite likely encounter patrons with needs that

can be met using the tools and strategies described in this essay.

Peace studies is multidisciplinary. While its main roots are in political science (specifically international relations), ethics (both religious and philosophical), and social psychology (inter and intra-group dynamics), it also includes history, psychology, sociology, gender studies, anthropology, and environmental studies among others. In this sense, almost any library research tool other than those in the hard sciences may potentially be of use to someone engaged in peace studies. And, occasionally, there may even be a need for scientific sources. Nevertheless, the focus of this article will be upon those tools which will be most helpful to the largest number of inquirers.

## SCHOLARLY RESOURCES

The only index dedicated to periodical literature of peace studies of which this author is aware is the *Peace Research Abstracts Journal (PRAJ)*. Do not be fooled by the word "journal" in the title. This is a traditional index with abstracts. It is produced by the Peace Research Institute, Dundas, Ontario, Canada, and published by Sage. At present it appears to be available electronically only as an ECO title through FirstSearch. As of this fall, Notre Dame is paying \$1200 for a combined print and electronic subscription.

PRAJ covers all of the main themes of peace studies from international to interpersonal, both contemporary and historical. It is currently received by at least seven Indiana libraries: Manchester, Goshen, Indiana, Purdue, Earlham, Ball State, and Notre Dame (WorldCat, n.d.). In addition, Indiana State has 1973-1984 (WorldCat, n.d.) This title is emphasized both for its unique qualities and as an example of the dilemma facing researchers in many disciplines. Sometimes the best source is not available locally, but yet is only an hour or two away. (Think field trip!)

The structure of the print version of *PRAJ* is somewhat similar to the print versions of *America: History and Life*, *Historical Abstracts*, *Sociological Abstracts*, and *Psychological Abstracts*. Entries with abstracts are

arranged by broad topics and are accessible using the table of contents. In addition, there are author and subject indexes in the back, each with a list of relevant abstract accession numbers. The electronic version opens up access to these substantive abstracts, but fails for some reason to include the table of contents topics. Fortunately, it does provide searching of subject headings (renamed "identifiers"). All in all, *PRAJ* is the place to start for most analytic, theoretical, or critical analyses in peace studies.

If *PRAJ* is unavailable locally, another excellent place to start is one of the readily available interdisciplinary databases such as Expanded Academic Index (InfoTrac), FirstSearch (OCLC), or EBSCOhost's Academic Search Elite, which are available to every library and resident of Indiana under Academic Periodicals in INSPIRE. These databases will not give the depth of peace studies coverage available in *PRAJ*, but they will give a wide sampling of publications across disciplinary boundaries.

WorldCat, available through INSPIRE ([www.inspire.net](http://www.inspire.net)), would be the place to start if one has a specific title in mind. In addition, one might want to explore the holdings of nearby libraries for other as yet unidentified resources. The following three lists should be helpful. The first link is to a world wide list of libraries arranged for the United States by country, type of library, state, and name of library.

—Libweb, Library Servers via WWW  
<http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/>

—Indiana State Library: Libraries of Indiana Colleges and Universities  
<http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/lib/UNIVLIB.HTML>

—Indiana State Library: Indiana Public Library Web Sites  
<http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/lib/publib.html>

Before leaving scholarly sources for another side of peace studies (securing current data on contemporary conflicts), three special purpose databases should be mentioned, PAIS International, Web of Science, and CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online). These tools are often available at larger research institutions, though PAIS is fairly popular in all types of academic libraries. As the name indicates, PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service) International indexes scholarly and critical journals for articles, reports, and documents dealing with public affairs and public policies. It covers the middle ground with a scope narrower than general purpose multi-disciplinary databases like Academic Search Elite yet broader than discipline specific databases such as Worldwide Political Science Abstracts.

Web of Science (also known as Web of Knowledge) contains Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index.

As these names imply, this product allows one to track research trends by finding out who is citing whom. The researcher will probably want to limit his or her search to one or two of the main databases (usually social science and the arts and humanities portions) to narrow retrieval since a very large number of hard science journals are in the science portion. While its greatest strength is citation tracking, its augmented title keyword searching has the advantage of covering several thousand scholarly journals at once.

CIAO is unusual in that its strength is not the indexing of published articles, but rather working papers and policy briefs prepared by scholarly institutes and assorted think tanks. For instance, all of the reports and policy briefs prepared by the fellows of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame may be found in CIAO along with studies from dozens of other similar institutions.

Of course, every relevant scholarly article will not be indexed in either *PRAJ* or these multidisciplinary databases since work crucial to peace studies is done in so many disciplines and often in relatively specialized journals. Therefore, depending on the topic, a researcher may need to use any of the dozens of subject specific indexes available for the various academic disciplines. The most efficient strategy would then be to use those indexes closest to home first and then determine which Indiana libraries subscribe to the desired additional titles.

## POPULAR AND JOURNALISTIC RESOURCES

The other broad category of interest for those engaged in peace studies, particularly those with a professional or practitioner's interest, is current information. This data may come from popular magazines, newspapers, broadcast transcripts, government websites, inter- and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and NGOs), and point-of-view (POV) sites, i.e., special interest groups.

Once again INSPIRE offers a great place to start with its access to both a significant collection of popular magazines through the General Interest Magazines link to EBSCOhost's MasterFILE Premier and newspapers through the Newspaper link to EBSCOhost's Knight Ridder Collection and Newspaper Source. Expanded Academic Index (InfoTrac), FirstSearch (OCLC), or EBSCOhost's Academic Search Premier (an enhanced version of Elite), are also excellent sources for general purpose popular magazines since they contain a mix of both popular and scholarly titles.

In addition to these sources, for newspapers and other journalistic sources, one can consult more robust services such as LEXIS/NEXIS Academic, Factiva (a product of the Dow Jones and Reuters news services),

or WNC (World News Connection), the successor to FBIS (the Foreign Broadcast Information Service). Each of these has its own unique strengths and weaknesses, but all three provide access to many domestic and foreign sources which are otherwise unavailable. Notre Dame appears to be the only institution in Indiana to provide onsite access to all three of these databases (WorldCat, n.d.).

Using these subscription newspaper sources is particularly important because of the limits to free access to news on the Web. Most Web users have had the experience of locating several relevant articles on the Web only to discover that those articles which are more than a few days (or at most weeks) old are no longer free. Finding and accessing breaking news is no problem. Archived stories are another matter. Libraries' subscription databases are the obvious answer. Again, field trips can be an invaluable supplement to local research.

## THE WEB

One extremely valuable source for which travel is unnecessary is the Web. When searching for current information about contemporary groups, communities or individuals, or current issues or conflicts, researchers can often retrieve relevant information by Googling names of both established institutions and new movements. The Web is particularly helpful in facilitating the voice of the voiceless, those groups or movements which have difficulty gaining access to the established media in their particular societies. When addressing conflict, the old saying that there are always two sides to any question is wrong. Rather, it is a truism in peace studies that there are always AT LEAST two sides (and usually many more) to any question. Inevitably, some groups (actors) will be better known and have better access to traditional media outlets than others. The Web now provides almost all parties the opportunity to be heard in their own words.

This is extremely valuable for both the peace studies scholar and practitioner. If one is approached to mediate or otherwise participate in conflict transformation or peace building, one may bring oneself up to speed much more quickly than in the past. The Web can help identify the players, their contact information, and their positions in their own words (and the words of their antagonists) without or in addition to the mediation of the press or the external analysis of experts.

As outlined above, the surface Web, that portion of the Web accessible using Google and other similar search engines, is extremely helpful to peace researchers. However, it is important for them to also make use

of the deep Web, that portion of the Web that is hidden behind passwords on commercial sites or within databases which cannot yet be accessed by automated indexing software (spiders and crawlers). Most librarians spend a great deal of time trying to get users to move beyond the surface Web, yet most users, especially students, tend to stick to Google or its competitors and feel that their searching is good enough (Griffiths and Brophy, 2005). Much additional valuable data is available in the deep but free portions of the Web hidden within databases at government, IGO, and NGO websites. This still includes most library catalogs and many government databases. These wonderful sources are free if one has or can locate the appropriate URL. Estimates of the percentage of Web content in the surface and deep Webs vary widely but all agree that far more exists in the deep Web than on its surface (Deep Web, n.d.).

In addition to movement or POV sites, governments, IGOs (the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization of American States, etc.), and NGOs (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Doctors without Borders, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, etc.), almost all have significant Web presences and are constantly publishing up-to-date reports and analyses along with compiling the basic statistical data necessary for informed reflection or action. Many of these reports are buried within organizational databases (the deep Web) and are consequently available only once one arrives at the group's website and actually searches its databases, similar to arriving at a library's website and using its catalog.

If searching the names of participants and organizations is unsuccessful or if the researcher is not yet aware of all the possible actors in a given situation, he or she can turn to Web directories to locate sites which may then provide portals to both surface and deep Web information. Here are six Web directories which are particularly helpful in locating government, IGO, and NGO sites of potential interest to the peace studies researcher.

—International Agencies & Information on the Web  
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/intl.html>

—Guide to Foreign Government Documents  
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/foreign.html>

—Governments on the Web  
<http://www.gksoft.com/govt/>

—Facts on International Relations & Security Trends (FIRST)  
<http://first.sipri.org/>

—The WWW Virtual Library: International Affairs Resources  
<http://www.etown.edu/vl/>

—CRInfo Version IV: The Conflict Resolution Information Source

<http://v4.crinfo.org/>

For a more comprehensive approach, one may always turn to general Web directories. While no directory can be comprehensive in sites indexed, each directory has its own structure, nomenclature, and selection of sites. With a little creative exploration and experimentation, they too may be beneficial in researching such an interdisciplinary discipline as peace studies.

—Google Directory

<http://www.google.com/dirhp>

—Yahoo Directory

<http://dir.yahoo.com/>

—Infomine

<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>

—Academic Info

<http://www.academicinfo.net/>

—Librarians' Internet Index

<http://lii.org/>

If you find that a road trip is needed, remember that most libraries in Indiana, both public and academic, welcome visiting researchers. While immediate charge out privileges may not be possible, most libraries provide on site access to their subscription databases as long as their licenses permit this. Also, please note that with the coming of the ALI (Academic Libraries of Indiana) reciprocal borrowers program and PLACs (Public Library Access Cards), on site borrowing is becoming a greater reality. At least this is true within, though not always between, each of the two communities of academic and public libraries.

## CONCLUSION

Peace Studies, however new and diverse, is a well-established discipline within Indiana's colleges and universities and has many practitioners spread throughout its local communities. Indiana's academic and public libraries are well positioned to meet the information needs of peace studies scholars and practitioners.

Every library has relevant resources available within its collections and subscriptions. INSPIRE alone is invaluable. (And don't forget the field trips.)

## REFERENCES

- COPRED. (2000). Global directory of peace studies and conflict resolution programs. Fairfax, VA: COPRED, Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development.
- Deep Web. (n.d.). *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. Retrieved October 14, 2005, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep\\_web](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_web).
- Griffiths, J. & Brophy, P. (2005). Student searching behavior and the Web: Use of academic resources and Google. *Library Trends*. Retrieved October 14, 2005, from Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost).
- Peace Studies. (n.d.). About the [peace studies] program, Manchester College. Retrieved October 14, 2005, from [http://www.manchester.edu/Academics/Departments/Peace\\_Studies/aboutus.html](http://www.manchester.edu/Academics/Departments/Peace_Studies/aboutus.html)
- Plowshares Peace Studies Collaborative. (n.d.). The Plowshares peace studies collaborative of Earlham, Goshen and Manchester Colleges. Retrieved October 14, 2005, from <http://www.plowsharesproject.org/>
- WorldCat. (n.d.). Retrieved October 14, 2005, from <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Doug Archer is Reference and Peace Studies Librarian at the Notre Dame University Libraries and may be contacted at 109 Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46656 (archer.1@nd.edu).